(d) After the privatization of distribution of power in Delhi, the distribution companies have accepted target of reducing the losses including power theft by about 17% gradually over a period of five years. Moreover, under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers, damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

(e) Under Section 153 of the Electricity Act, 2003, there is a provision for setting up of special courts by the State Governments to deal with the power theft cases.

Constitution of Tribunal for Dispute in Sharing Hydro-Electric Power

1127. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposal for the constitution of Tribunal for Settlement of Inter-State Disputes for Sharing Hydro-electric Power;

(b) if so, whether Government has plans to form such a tribunal in order to speedy settlement of inter-State disputes;

(c) if so, by when would the tribunal be constituted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) At present, the Government has no proposal to constitute an Inter-State Tribunal for Hydro-electric Projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(d) A comprehensive proposal has not emerged.

Displaced people of Tehri and Dhauli Ganga Projects

†1128. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families to be displaced by Tehri and Dhauli Ganga projects and the number of persons already displaced so far, project-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are aware of the ongoing movement of Tehri dam affected people for fixing a date for family determination and the due compensation etc.; and

(c) if so, the main demands of the movement along with the details of the steps being taken to meet the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) All 5291 urban families who will be affected on account of Tehri Dam have been offered rehabilitation benefits. Out of 5429 rural families who will be fully affected 4206 rural families have so far been rehabilitated through allotment of land/cash compensation.

36 families were to be displaced on account of Dhauli Ganga Project. 34 families preferred to resettle on their own and, therefore, have been paid cash compensation. 2 families are being rehabilitated by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation to their satisfaction.

(b) and (c) The Rehabilitation Policy for Tehri Dam oustees originally evolved by Government of Uttar Pradesh has been further improved from time to time. Consequent upon the decision of Central Government on the recommendations of Hanumantha Rao Committee (HRC) in December 1998, the rehabilitation package for Project Affected Persons was further improved with financial implication of Rs. 266.42 crores. Thereafter, on the request of the Government of Uttaranchal, who are now handling the rehabilitation and resettlement of the population affected by Tehri Project, the Government of India sanctioned additional package of rehabilitation measures costing Rs. 144.59 crores. The cost of R&R as per Revised Cost Estimates has thus increased to Rs. 982.94 crores.

Programme for rural electrification

1129. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme for development of rural electrification in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and